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State Department review completed

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\*Vietnam: (Information as of 4:30 AM EDT)

The Military Situation in South Vietnam: Only light, sporadic contact has been reported between US and Communist forces since the end of the regimental-size engagement in northern Quang Tin Province late on 3 June.

US Marines from Operation UNION II, currently under way in Quang Tin Province, reported killing 474 enemy soldiers during the two days of intense fighting in which American losses were 54 killed and 120 wounded. More than 600 enemy troops have been killed since this sweep operation began on 25 May. The enemy force, believed to contain elements of the North Vietnamese Army (NVA) 2nd Division, may have been planning to hamper vital allied supply routes and/or attack the strategic US Marine bases located between Da Nang and Chu Lai.

This successful spoiling action by Operation UNION II will disrupt future offensive plans of the NVA 2nd Division in the Quang Tin Province area and will probably cause further stalling and create limitation on the magnitude of the Communist countrywide "summer campaign." (Map)

Political Developments in South Vietnam: The Provisional National Assembly has rejected the Directorate's recommended changes in the presidential and senatorial election laws, but its actions may prove inconclusive.

In heated sessions on 2 June, during which debate centered on the Directorate's constitutional authority to propose changes, the assembly voted to retain the election dates set by the laws--3 September for the presidency and 17 December for the senate--and to retain a provision requiring each presidential candidate to be sponsored by 30 elected representatives of the people. It is now up to

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the Directorate to decide whether its proposals constitute a veto, in which case the assembly's balloting fell far short of the absolute majority required by the constitution to override an executive veto.

Although supporters of Premier Ky walked out of the assembly when resistance developed to the Directorate's request for simultaneous presidential and senatorial elections, they did not back the Directorate's position--which strongly reflected the views of Chief of State Thieu--on abolishing the nominating provision. Ky's strategy was evidently to cause Thieu to suffer a major loss of face over the issue. There are now reports that Ky is seeking the sponsorship for his candidacy of well over 100 elected provincial councilors and assemblymen in the hope of compounding Thieu's embarrassment.

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Nigeria: War preparations are being made by both sides in the wake of the 30 May secession of Nigeria's former Eastern Region.

Governor Ojukwu has declared his new Republic of Biafra a "disturbed area," ordered a general mobilization, and assumed the right to rule by decree. His government evidently believes that Northern Nigerian troops will invade Biafra soon.

The Federal Military Government (FMG) is also stepping up preparedness for a showdown. On 3 June, General Gowon announced the appointment of a Federal Executive Council to be composed of one civilian representative from each of the 12 new states and top military and police officials. The inclusion of Chief Awolowo, the leading political figure of Western Nigeria, and other old-line politicians is probably intended to enlist solid civilian support for an anti-Biafra build-up. It reduces, at least for the time being, the likelihood of the Western Yorubas siding with their fellow southerners in the East, as they had seemed inclined to do earlier.

There has been a heavy response to Gowon's drive to mobilize reserves and veterans. Enlistment has been particularly heavy among Northern ex-infantry soldiers, and all numbered and identified FMG units are expected to be at full strength or over within a few days. The influx of old soldiers, once well trained and firmly disciplined, may prove to be a real asset to the current FMG forces.

The UK High Commissioner in Lagos believes that Gowon is too far committed now to hold back his Northern soldiers from action of some kind. He feels that even if no formal invasion of the East is ordered, there remains a danger that Northern troops will launch forays into the East which could set off large-scale fighting.

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Meanwhile, the evacuation of foreign women and children from the East and other threatened areas is under way. The first US dependents were evacuated from Port Harcourt on 4 June. The UK, which has been reluctant to evacuate its nationals, is now seeking to move dependents out on "advanced home leave."

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NOTE

Hong Kong - Communist China: The campaign of sporadic strikes by Communist-led labor unions in the colony appears to be losing some of its momentum, at least for the present. Although the local Communists continue to plan for future strikes, the government's new stringent measures to prevent strike leaders from returning to their jobs probably will have a salutary effect on other workers. Peking continues to lend its political support to the strikers, but the relative vagueness of recent propaganda commentary suggests that Communist China has concluded that the struggle will be protracted.

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